MARVEL COMICS
MARVEL TEAM-UP™ Starring:
SPIDER-MAN® and BLADE®
MAR #7
WOLFMAN
DERENICK
PALMER
FANGS OF THE VAMPIRE!
DIRECT EDITION
$1.99 US $2.80 CAN

5:21 AM.
SILENCE EVERYWHERE IN THIS DARK BEFORE DAWN. NOT EVEN THE CAMPUS CATS ARE AWAKE PROWLING FOR FOOD.
NOT EVEN THE HUNDRED-YEAR-OLD TREES RUSTLE IN THE STILL WIND.
E.S.U. UNIVERSITY
BLACK SHADOWS QUIETLY DAPPLE THE MACADAM.
THEN, IN DEFIANCE, ONE SHADOW HIDDEN AMONG THE MANY...
...MOVES.
HE IS A SILENT STROBE OF LIGHT FLICKERING IN THE HAZY MORNING MIST. HE MOVES ALMOST FASTER THAN THE EYE CAN FOLLOW...
...THEN SKITTERS LIKE A RAVENOUS INSECT UP THREE STORIES OF CONCRETE AND GLASS.
HIS NARROW EYES GLOW LIKE FIREFLIES IN THE HAZE.
HE'S FOUND IT. AHEAD OF HIM: SALVATION!
YEAH, HE'S INSIDE.
DON'T WORRY. WE'LL GET THE FORMULA.
I'LL GIVE THAT MOTHERLESS SON OF A CORPSE TIME TO DO HIS DIRTY WORK.
BLADE--
OUT!

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ELSEWHERE IN THE EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY SCIENCE CENTER...
IT'S BEEN A LOUSY 26 HOURS FOR PETER PARKER, THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN. HE SPENT THE NIGHT CHASING DOWN A KILLER...
...AND NOW, ALL PETER WANTS IS TO GO HOME AND SLEEP. BUT WITH A CHEM PAPER DUE IN THREE HOURS...
...SLEEP IS A LUXURY HE SIMPLY CAN'T AFFORD.
PETER? PETER?
HUH? WHAT? OH, JOSE! WHERE AM--
YOU WERE ASLEEP, SON. STRETCHING THE HOURS AGAIN?
YOU CAN'T KEEP PUSHIN' YOURSELF. A BODY'S GOTTA REST SOMETIME.
IF HE ONLY KNEW--!
I'M ALL RIGHT. I'M ALMOST DONE.
BUT THANKS FOR WAKING ME UP.
HOW'RE ANTONIO AND SALMA?
GETTIN' TOO BIG FOR ME. BUT THEY'RE GOOD KIDS. GIVE MY LOVE TO MJ.
TAKE CARE, JOSE.
JOSE LOPEZ HAS WORKED AT ESU FOR TWELVE YEARS--A QUIET, GENTLE MAN LIKED BY ALL.
HE DOES NOT DESERVE THE FATE RUSHING TO CLAIM HIM.
HELLO? CLEAN-UP. ANYONE HERE?
STAN LEE PRESENTS:

STAN LEE PRESENTS: SPIDER-MAN AND BLADE, THE VAMPIRE HUNTER!
SUN-WALKERS!
THE MAN, IF MAN HE IS, TURNS TO JOSE, HIS FACE WHITE AS THE PARCHED DESERT, HIS ICY EYES RIMMED RED WITH FIRE. AND HIS VOICE...
... HIS SOFT, COLD VOICE NUMBS JOSE STRAIGHT TO THE BONE.
YOU SHOULD HAVE SERVICED ANOTHER CLASSROOM, JANITOR.
YOUR DILIGENCE WILL SADLY COST YOU YOUR WORTHLESS LITTLE LIFE.
YAAAAAAHHH
huh? WHAT--? OMIGOSH! THAT'S JOSE!
MARV WOLFMAN writer
THOMAS DERENICK penciller
TOM PALMER inker
BILL OAKLEY letterer
TOM SMITH colorist
TOM BREVOORT editor
BOB HARRAS editor in chief

MAN, I HOPE THIS ISN'T ANOTHER HEART ATTACK.
THE LAST ONE KEPT HIM IN BED THREE MONTHS.
uh-oh... MY SPIDER-SENSE IS SUDDENLY DOING OVER-TIME.
WHATEVER'S OUT THERE ISN'T A MEDICAL PROBLEM.
JOSE'S IN TROUBLE!
HUH? GET AWAY FROM HIM!
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?
I'VE EASED HIS PAIN, EVEN AS I QUENCHED MY THIRST!
COME CLOSER... JOIN HIM IN BLISSFUL ETERNITY.
CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF THOSE "X-FILES" RERUNS, huh?
FINE WITH ME. I'M MULDER AND YOU'RE--
I AM THE ONE WHO WILL SLAY YOU!
WHUFF! HIS GRIP'S LIKE A STEEL VISE! GOTTA PULL AWAY BEFORE--
THE WAR BEGINS WITH YOU, BUT IT WILL SOON INCLUDE ALL MANKIND.
sheesh! WHY IS IT EVERYONE WANTS TO TAKE OVER THE WORLD THESE DAYS?
WHATEVER HAPPENED TO JUST ROBBING A CONVENIENCE STORE?

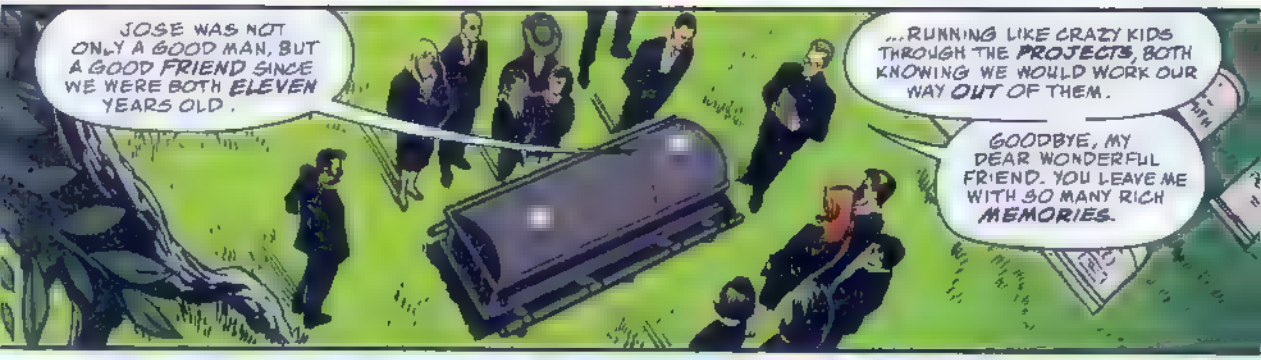
CONSIDER YOURSELF FORTUNATE, FLESHBAG. I HAVE ALL I NEED HERE.
IF I WERE WISE, WOULD I DRESS UP IN THIS CORNY SUIT?
HEY! DON'T GO, GRUESOME-- YOU AND I STILL HAVEN'T TALKED ABOUT WHATEVER IT IS YOU DID TO JOSE!
BE WISE! GO AWAY AND YOU WILL LIVE!
I DINED ON HIS THICK, RICH BLOOD. I TASTED HIS LIFE AS HE WITHERED FROM MY TOUCH.
THE HUMAN IS DEAD, SUN-WALKER.
NO MORE JOKES. IF YOU KILLED THAT POOR MAN, THE KID GLOVES ARE OFF!
JOSE'S MY FRIEND AND I'M GOING TO MAKE SURE YOU REMEMBER THAT--
WHUMP!
--EVERY DAY YOU'RE IN PRISON TILL THEY STRAP YOU IN THE CHAIR!
BLADE SILENTLY WATCHES IN THE SHADOWS...
LET THE SPIDER TIRE OUT THE BLOOD-SUCKER. THEN HE'LL MOVE IN...
AND I THOUGHT HARRY HOUDINI WAS DEAD.
NO PRISON CAN HOLD ME.
SO AM I, YOU LITTLE FOOL. SO AM I.

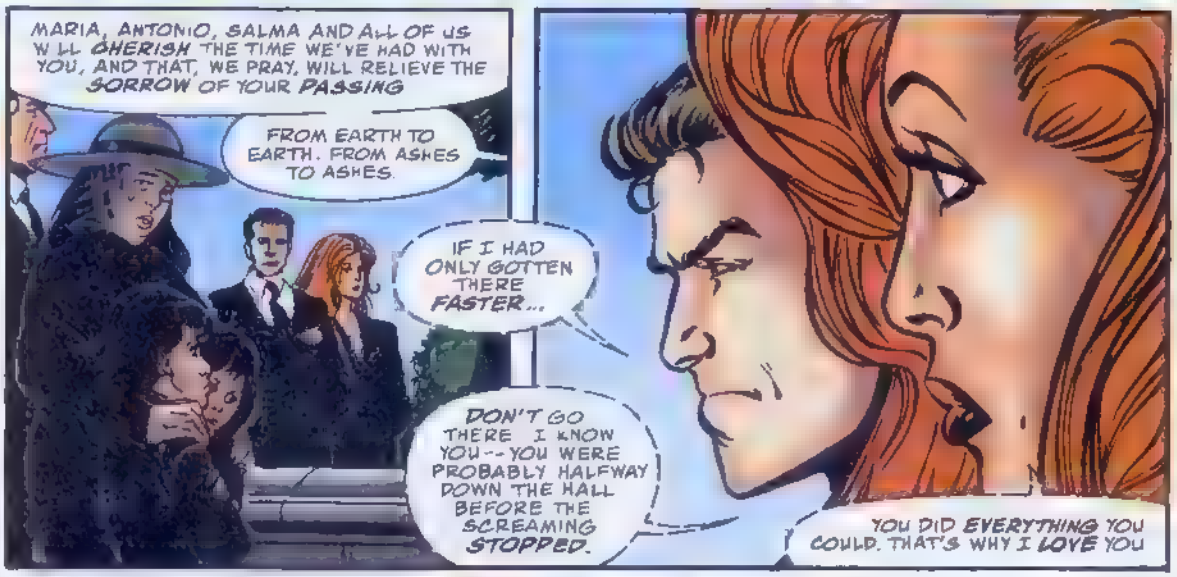
SPIDER-MAN CHOKES AS HE FEELS THE ANGER SWELLING UP INSIDE HIM. A GOOD MAN MAY BE DEAD...
KRAKOW!
...AND THIS GRINNING... THING... JUST STANDS THERE AND LAUGHS.
THINK YOU'RE PRETTY COOL?
FORGET IT! YOU'RE NOTHING BUT GUTTER-CRAWLING SLIME!
AND I'VE HAD ENOUGH!
FOLDED LIKE A CIRCUS TENT. TYPICAL.
WEEOOO WEEOOO
eh? THE COPS. ABOUT TIME.
SEE YOU IN YOUR NIGHTMARES, UGLY.
COUNT ON IT.
THE SPIDER'S NOT BAD, BLADE THINKS. THIS SAVES HIM A LOT OF TROUBLE. HE'LL COLLECT HIS PACKAGE... LATER.

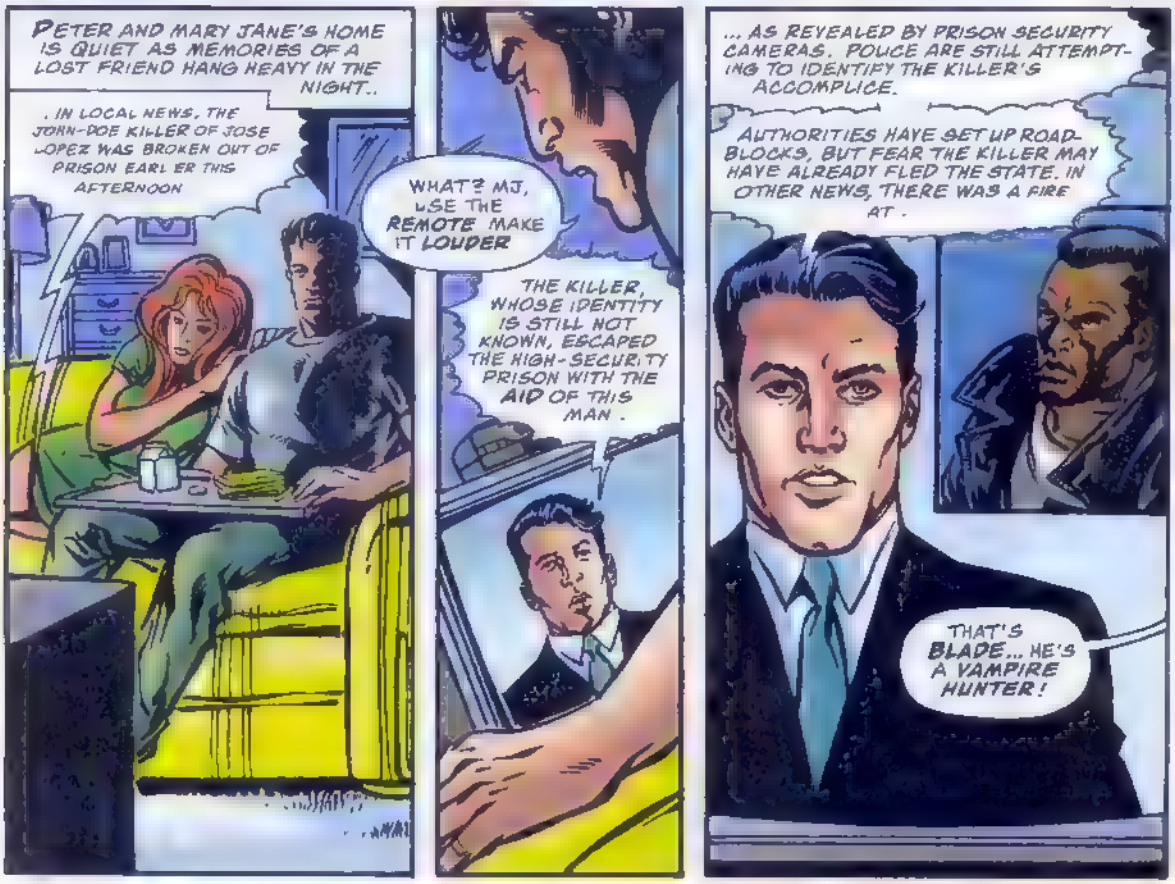
RIKER'S ISLAND, WHERE THE WORST OF THE WORST ARE IMPRISONED.
THIS CELL WON'T HOLD ME. NOTHING YOU CAN DO CAN KEEP ME HERE.
BLAST! NO GOOD! I CAN'T FLY... I CAN'T TURN TO MIST!
THEODORE!
BAM BAM BAM
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO ME?
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO ME?!
BAM BAM BAM
THE SUN! ITS CURSED LIGHT BURNS, BUT IT DOESN'T KILL!
YOUR FILTHY EXPERIMENT ONLY HALF-WORKED, THEODORE.
YOU--JOHN DOE--SHUT UP AND STEP BACK!
I BROUGHT YOU A VISITOR.
I DON'T CARE TO SEE ANY FLESHBAG.
IS THAT A NICE WAY TO GREET SOMEONE WHO'S TRAVELED HALFWAY ACROSS THE COUNTRY TO KILL YOU?
WELL? IS IT?
THWOOK!

:MMFFBBBFFFMM:
THERE'S NOTHING I'D LIKE MORE THAN TO TWIST MY WOODEN KNIFE UP INTO YOUR HEART AN' CUT IT OUT.
BUT RIGHT NOW I NEED YOU IN ONE PIECE. SO, EITHER YOU DO AS I SAY OR IT'S THE FINAL RESTING GROUNDS-- RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW.
WHAT'LL IT BE? PICK DEATH! I'D ENJOY THAT MORE!
I--I'LL DO AS YOU SAY, FLESHBAG.
THAT'S MISTER FLESH-BAG TO YOU.
NOW, HERE'S WHAT YOU, ME, AN' OFFICER GANNON ARE GONNA DO.
SGT. FRANK GANNON WHEELS A LAUNDRY CART ACROSS RIKER'S COURT-YARD TO A WAIT-ING TRUCK...
HURRY! GET THE 'PACKAGE' ON THE TRUCK.
BLADE PLANNED THIS TO THE SPLIT SECOND. WE CAN'T DELAY.

NOON...
HUNGRY?
BET RIGHT 'BOUT NOW A TYPE 'O' COCKTAIL WOULD TASTE REAL REFRESHIN'.
YOU'RE NOT USED TO THE HOT SUN, ARE YOU?
I MEAN, YOU KNOW YOUR BODY WON'T DISINTE-GRATE...
... BUT YOUR MIND'S GOTTA BE TELLIN' YOU YOU'RE GONNA BURN UP AN' DIE.
BESIDES, THE SUN'S GOTTA BE BURNIN' THROUGH YOUR EYES.
BET RIGHT NOW YOU'RE WISHIN' YOU COULD DIE AN' LET THE PAIN GO AWAY.
SSSS
SSSS
SSSS
SSSS
SO, WHAT SAY YOU TELL ME HOW IT IS YOU'RE ABLE TO SUN-WALK...
...AN' WHAT YOU AN' THE OTHER VAMPS IN THE BLOOD CIRCLE ARE PLANNIN'.
START TALKIN', TRASH...
GO AHEAD. DESTROY ME. THEN SEE WHAT YOU LEARN.

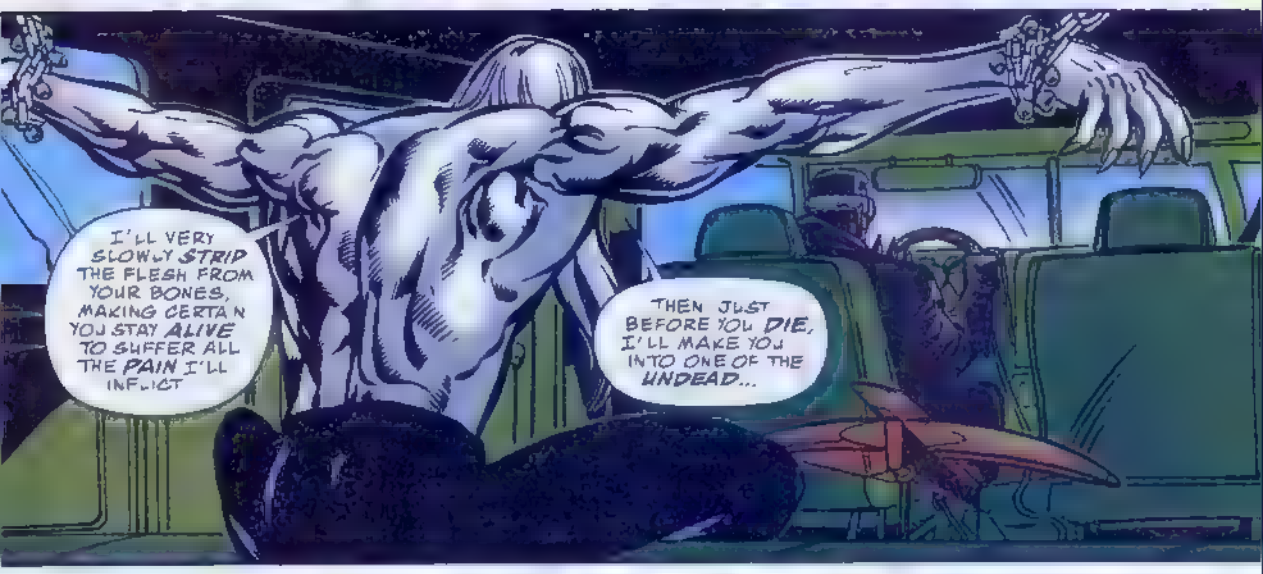

JOSE WAS NOT ONLY A GOOD MAN, BUT A GOOD FRIEND SINCE WE WERE BOTH ELEVEN YEARS OLD.
...RUNNING LIKE CRAZY KIDS THROUGH THE PROJECTS, BOTH KNOWING WE WOULD WORK OUR WAY OUT OF THEM.
GOODBYE, MY DEAR WONDERFUL FRIEND. YOU LEAVE ME WITH SO MANY RICH MEMORIES.


MARIA, ANTONIO, SALMA AND ALL OF US WILL CHERISH THE TIME WE'VE HAD WITH YOU, AND THAT, WE PRAY, WILL RELIEVE THE SORROW OF YOUR PASSING
FROM EARTH TO EARTH. FROM ASHES TO ASHES.
IF I HAD ONLY GOTTEN THERE FASTER...
DON'T GO THERE I KNOW YOU--YOU WERE PROBABLY HALFWAY DOWN THE HALL BEFORE THE SCREAMING STOPPED.
YOU DID EVERYTHING YOU COULD. THAT'S WHY I LOVE YOU


PETER AND MARY JANE'S HOME IS QUIET AS MEMORIES OF A LOST FRIEND HANG HEAVY IN THE NIGHT..
. IN LOCAL NEWS, THE JOHN-DOE KILLER OF JOSE LOPEZ WAS BROKEN OUT OF PRISON EARLIER THIS AFTERNOON
WHAT? MJ, USE THE REMOTE MAKE IT LOUDER
THE KILLER, WHOSE IDENTITY IS STILL NOT KNOWN, ESCAPED THE HIGH-SECURITY PRISON WITH THE AID OF THIS MAN.
... AS REVEALED BY PRISON SECURITY CAMERAS. POLICE ARE STILL ATTEMPTING TO IDENTIFY THE KILLER'S ACCOMPLICE.
AUTHORITIES HAVE SET UP ROADBLOCKS, BUT FEAR THE KILLER MAY HAVE ALREADY FLED THE STATE. IN OTHER NEWS, THERE WAS A FIRE AT .
THAT'S BLADE... HE'S A VAMPIRE HUNTER!

DOC STRANGE TOLD ME HE'S BASED IN NEW ORLEANS THESE DAYS
A VAMPIRE HUNTER?
PETER I'M AFRAID PLEASE CALL SOME BODY WHO SPECIALIZES IN THESE THINGS!
JOSE WAS MY FRIEND I'VE GOT TO DO THIS
I KNOW
"...AND THAT'S ALSO WHY I LOVE YOU."
OKAY PARKER SO HOW'RE YOU GONNA TREK HALFWAY ACROSS THE COUNTRY WITH ONLY TEN DOLLARS AND A COUPLA TUNA FISH SANDWICHES TO YOUR NAME?
WELCOME TO EW JERSEY
CALL ME CRAZY BUT I DON'T THINK I'VE GOT MUCH HOPE THUMBING A RIDE
BINGO! THAT TRUCK'S GOT LOUISIANA PLATES
AND PLENTY TO DRINK FOR THE RIDE!
THWIP!
DUFFMEISTER BEER
HEE HAW!
NOW ALL I GOTTA WORRY ABOUT'S HOPING OUR REST STOPS COINCIDE!

COMFY?
I'M GOING TO ENJOY SLAYING YOU, BLADE
NEW ORLEANS 50 MILES


I'LL VERY SLOWLY STRIP THE FLESH FROM YOUR BONES, MAKING CERTAIN YOU STAY ALIVE TO SUFFER ALL THE PAIN I'LL INFLICT
THEN JUST BEFORE YOU DIE, I'LL MAKE YOU INTO ONE OF THE UNDEAD...

..SO YOUR PAIN WILL BE ETERNAL
SAVE IT FOR BUFFY. IT DON'T WORK WITH ME
OR KEEP TALKIN AN I'LL LET THE CROSSBOW DO ITS DEED 'N DIRTY ON YOU

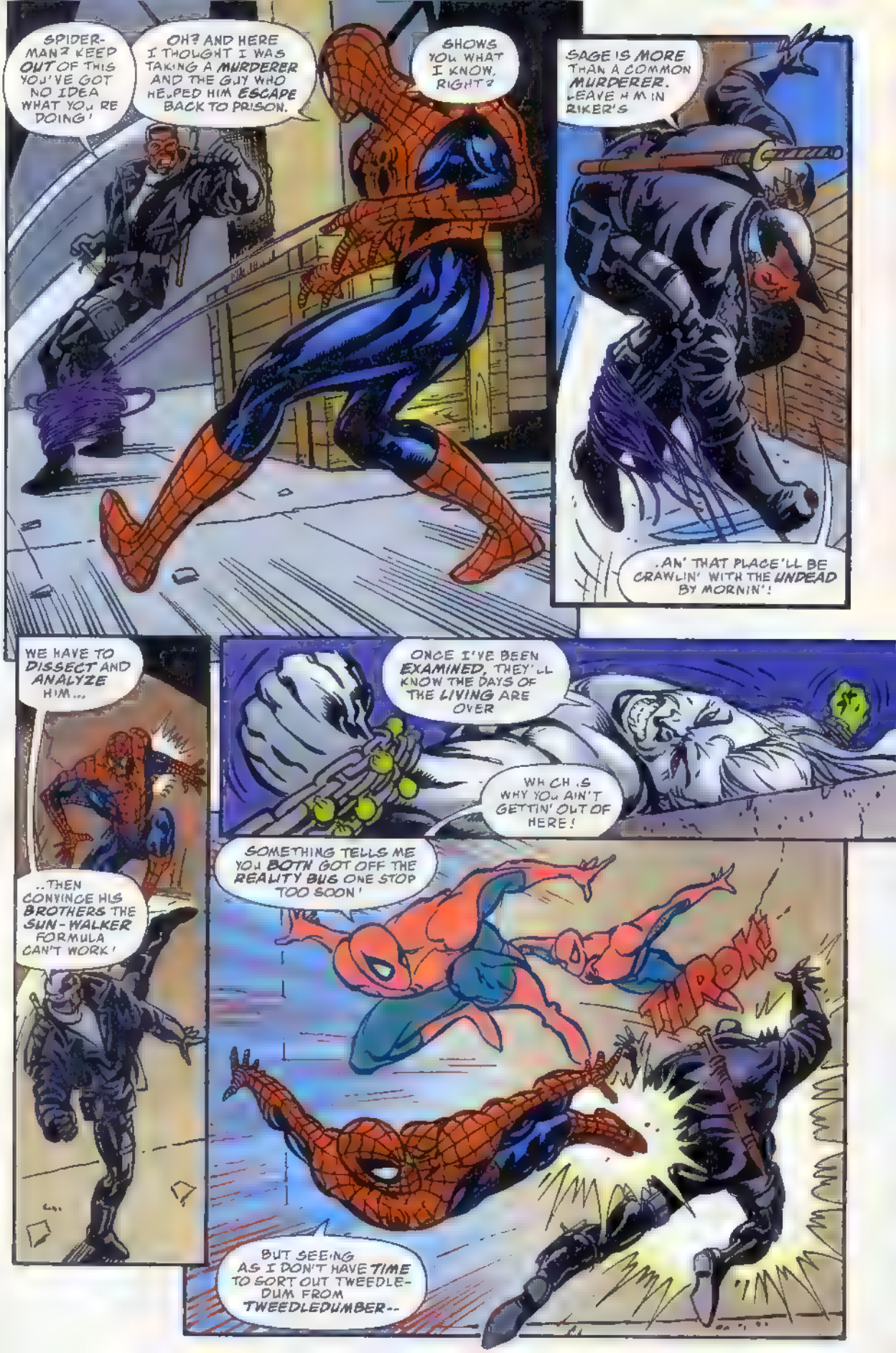
YOU NEED ME ALIVE TO ANALYZE THE SUN-WALKER FORMULA
FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, SCUM, WE CAN SIFT THROUGH YOUR ASHES.
DNA'S DNA--DEAD OR UNDEAD
WHY FIGHT US? OUR NUMBERS GROW EXPONENTIALLY.
AND ONCE WE WALK IN DAYLIGHT, THERE WILL BE NONE WHO CAN STOP US

LISSEN YOU STINKIN CRUD CRAWL'N' MURDERER!
SCREEECH!
YOU SCUM-SUCKERS KILLED MY MOTHER JUST AS SHE WAS GIVIN' BIRTH!
YOUR FILTHY BLOOD DESTROYED EVERYTHING, COULD'N' WHAT EVER PART O MY SOUL BELIEVES IN MERCY!
YEAH, I'M HUMAN, BUT THERE'S JUST ENOUGH O YOUR STINKIN' KIND IN ME-
--TO LET ME FEEL THE HATE AN CONTEMPT YOU HAVE FOR EVERYTHING BUT YOURSELVES!
SO THE ONLY WAY THE PAIN IN ME ENDS IS WHEN ALL O' YOU SHRIVEL UP AN DIE!
YOU GOT THAT, DISGUSTO? YOU'RE A DISEASE, AN I'M THE FREAKIN' CURE!
SLASH!!
I... UNDERSTAND YOUR PAIN
LIKE BLAZES YOU ONLY UNDERSTAND GIVIN' PAIN
NO. I HAVEN'T THOUGHT ABOUT IT FOR A LONG TIME, BUT THAT DOES NOT MEAN THE PAIN GOES AWAY
MY WIFE AND CHILD WERE MURDERED BY VAMPIRES BEFORE MY EYES
I UNDERSTAND YOU BLADE MORE THAN YOU REALIZE

MEANWHILE, ON THE INTERSTATE
EXIT 86 NEW ORLEANS
UH-OH MY EXIT, AND HE'S NOT GETTING OFF
WELL, THIS IS THE LAST TIME I HITCH A FREE RIDE ON YOUR TRUCK! THAT'LL SHOW YA!
OKAY--SO HERE I AM-- NEW ORLEANS, HOME OF HOT FOOD, COOL JAZZ, AND HUMIDITY SO HIGH MY TIGHTS ARE RIDING UP ON ME!
SINCE I DON'T HAVE AN ADDRESS, AN' SOMETH'N TELLS ME VAMPIRE-HUNTERS AREN'T LISTED N THE YELLOW PAGES
I'M GONNA HAFTA DO THIS THE OLD-FASHIONED WAY.
WEB-SLING UP AND DOWN EVERY STREET 'TIL MY SPIDER-SENSE TELLS ME I HIT PAY-DIRT.
THE HOURS SLOWLY TICK BY
STILL NOTHING? DON'T TELL ME THE ONLY THING I'M GONNA FIND DOWN HERE IS GUMBO?
SPIDEY, YOUR BAD LUCK'S BATTING A THOUSAND-- LIKE USUAL
RING MY BELL AN' KISS LIZ HURLEY-- HOUSTON, THE EAGLE HAS LANDED!
AND IT'S COMING N STRONG!
SP DEY-SENSE, I LOVE YOU!

WHITE BLOOD CELL COUNT IS JUST UNDER HUMAN LEVEL
BUT VAMPIRES DON'T HAVE WHITE BLOOD CELLS
THIS ONE DOES... WHICH IS WHAT'S LETTING HIM LIVE IN SUNLIGHT.
PEOPLE, LET'S FIGURE OUT WHAT THE BLOOD-SUCKERS'VE DISCOVERED
WE HAVEN'T MUCH TIME. IF THEY LEARN THEIR EXPERIMENT IS A SUCCESS, THEY'LL DUPLICATE IT NO MATTER WHAT WE DO
AND PUT AN END TO IT BEFORE WE'VE GOT A VAMPIRE PLAGUE ON OUR HANDS
SPEAK TO ME. YOU TALKED ABOUT YOUR FAMILY. VAMPS DON'T TALK THAT WAY
IT WAS IN 1794 AUSTRIA.
THEN I WAS HENRY SAGE, A SILVERSMITH, AND VERY SUCCESSFUL.
"I CAME HOME ONE NIGHT TO DISCOVER HE WAS THERE, OVER MY WIFE, GROWLING LIKE SOME DAMNABLE BEAST
"I PANICKED AND RAN, ONLY TO FIND MY CHILDREN HAD BOTH BEEN KILLED.
"THEN THE VAMPIRE-- DRACULA-- CAME FOR ME AND EVER SO SLOWLY KILLED ME
"EVEN AS I SCREAMED FOR MY FAMILY I KNEW IT WAS ALREADY TOO LATE."

DRACULA HAD MADE ME AN UNDEAD, AND THERE HAS NOT BEEN A NIGHT SINCE I HAVEN'T THOUGHT OF THEM
YOU LIE. VAMPIRES DON'T LOVE ... YOU LUST, YOU HUNT, YOU KILL.
YOUR HEART DIED WHEN YOUR STINKIN' FANGS GOT BORN.
FOR MOST, YES BUT I LOVED MY WIFE AND CHILDREN MORE THAN LIFE ITSELF
AND I MISS THEM AS MUCH TODAY AS I D.D TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO
BUT I HAVE ALSO EMBRACED WHAT I AM. I SEE IT FOR THE TRUTH AND POWER OF WHAT WE ARE
WHY WON'T YOU ACCEPT THE GLORY OF ETERNITY?
PAL, WE GOT YOUR BLOOD, SO NOW WE DON'T NEED YOU. 'SIDES, MAN, I'M TIRED O' LISTENIN' TO THIS OLD GARBAGE.
SKRAASH!
MAYBE YOU'D PREFER MY ALL-NEW GARBAGE?
NONE OF IT'S BEEN RECYCLED. EXCEPT FOR MAYBE A JOKE OR TWO ABOUT PAULY SHORE
I HATE GIVING UP MY BEST MATERIAL
WHAT?!?
THOOOMP!
YOU'RE NOT LAUGHING
BUT THEN I WASN'T CHUCKLING WHEN I SAW YOUR PAL LAUGHING OVER MY FRIEND'S CORPSE!


SPIDER-MAN? KEEP OUT OF THIS! YOU'VE GOT NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE DOING!
OH? AND HERE I THOUGHT I WAS TAKING A MURDERER AND THE GUY WHO HELPED HIM ESCAPE BACK TO PRISON.
SHOWS YOU WHAT I KNOW, RIGHT?
SAGE IS MORE THAN A COMMON MURDERER. LEAVE HIM IN RIKER'S
..AN' THAT PLACE'LL BE CRAWLIN' WITH THE UNDEAD BY MORNIN'!
WE HAVE TO DISSECT AND ANALYZE HIM...
..THEN CONVINCE HIS BROTHERS THE SUN-WALKER FORMULA CAN'T WORK!
ONCE I'VE BEEN EXAMINED, THEY'LL KNOW THE DAYS OF THE LIVING ARE OVER
WHICH IS WHY YOU AIN'T GETTIN' OUT OF HERE!
SOMETHING TELLS ME YOU BOTH GOT OFF THE REALITY BUS ONE STOP TOO SOON!
THROK!
BUT SEEING AS I DON'T HAVE TIME TO SORT OUT TWEEDLE-DUM FROM TWEEDLEDUMBER--

--I'LL HAND YOU BOTH OVER TO THE COPS!
I KNOW HE KILLED MY FRIEND
AND THAT YOU'RE THE GUY WHO FREED HIM.
THERE'S NOTHING ELSE I HAVE TO UNDERSTAND.
DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT THAT THING IS?
YOU SWIMMING IN THE SHALLOW END OF THE GENE-POOL?
HUNH?
WHILE YOU'RE HASSLIN' ME--
--YOU'RE LETTIN' SAGE ESCAPE!
HE'S CRAWLING UP THE WALL?
HEY! NOBODY STEALS MY BIT
MOVING TOO FAST! BUT I'M NOT GONNA LOSE HIM!
BINGO! SPIDER TRACERS IN PLACE
SPIDER-MAN!
WHAT?
YOU FORGET SOMETHING?
I DON'T NEED YOU
THEN GO. BUT YOU DID PACK STAKES, HOLY WATER, AN CRUCIFIXES WITH YOUR WEBBING, DIDN'T YOU?

MAN, IT'S SO DARK I CAN'T SEE THE FRONT OF MY EYEBALLS. YOU BRING ONE OF THOSE COOL X-FILES FLASHLIGHTS?
YOU STILL DON'T BELIEVE IN THE VAMPIRES, DO YOU? MAKES US EVEN. I DON'T BELIEVE IN GUYS SWINGING FROM WEBS.
BUT THEY'RE AS REAL AS ANY OF THE BAD-GUYS YOU TAKE ON. YOU EVER HEAR OF DR. THEODORE JACKSON?
THE NOBEL PRIZE-WINNING CHEMIST. HE DIED BACK IN THE THIRTIES, I THINK.
VERY GOOD. HE SPECIALIZED IN BLOOD DISORDERS.
FLAKE
HE WAS KILLED BY VAMPIRES. YOU SEE, YAMPS ARE POWERFUL BUT THEY'VE GOT ONE BIG, HAIRY PROBLEM.
SUNLIGHT DESTROYS THEM.
IN A LEAP OF IMAGINATION, THEY TURNED JACKSON INTO ONE O' THEM TO GET HIM TO EXPERIMENT ON A CURE.
IT TOOK HIM SEVENTY YEARS, BUT THE ONE THING A CAREFUL VAMP HAS IS IMMORTALITY.
BUT JACKSON NEEDED A SPECIAL COMPOUND RECENTLY INVENTED BY PROFESSOR GERARD JURWICH.
TODD ROKEN
JURWICH? HE'S THE DEAN OF ESU'S SCIENCE DEPARTMENT!
BINGO!
THEY SENT SAGE TO STEAL THE COMPOUND AND TEST IT, DIDN'T THEY?
SO WHY DID SAGE COME HERE? SHOULDN'T HE BE WITH JACKSON?
VERY GOOD, SPIDER-MAN. YOU HAVE TALENT FOR PLAYING CONNECT-THE-DOTS.
BRANDON POLO

JACKSON'S BEEN EXPERIMENTING ON ME FOR MANY YEARS. HIS FORMULA WAS ALWAYS SO CLOSE TO SUCCESS.
THERE WERE TIMES I ALMOST FELT HUMAN AGAIN.
IT BROUGHT UP FEELINGS I THOUGHT LONG FORGOTTEN.
NOW YOU CAN'T SHAKE 'EM, CAN YOU?
WHAT ARE YOU GUYS TALKING ABOUT?
DAVID ROMERO
NO. THEY STAY WITH ME, LIVE INSIDE ME WHILE I HIBERNATE. THEY DIG INTO MY BRAIN...
I CAN'T LIVE LIKE THIS, BLADE.
YOU KNOW WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO. DO IT. DO IT!
YOU'RE HESITATING. WAS I WRONG TO THINK YOU WERE MY SALVATION?
I TOOK THE FORMULA TO FORCE YOU TO DO IT, BLADE. NOW I'LL HAVE TO SEEK ANOTHER.

SPIDER-MAN! YOU WANTED ME...
I MURDERED YOUR FRIEND...
...AND NOW BLADE IS GOING TO LET ME MURDER YOU!
SAGE! GET AWAY FROM HIM!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS!
OH, I DO, BLADE. YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THE HUNGER'S LIKE.
IT CONTROLS YOU... MAKES A PUPPET OF YOU. THERE'S NO WAY TO FIGHT IT.
C-CAN'T BREAK FREE... HE'S HOLDING ME DOWN LIKE I WAS A BABY!
TO ME, YOU ARE AN INFANT, LITTLE OLDER THAN MY CHILDREN WERE WHEN THEY WERE SLAIN.
YOUR LIFE HAS BARELY BEGUN. YOUR LOVED ONES HAVE HARDLY HAD TIME TO TRULY KNOW YOU.
NOW YOU JOIN ME IN ETERNAL UNLIFE...
...UNLESS YOUR FRIEND DOES WHAT HE MUST.

SAGE--? NO!
HE'S NOT THE ONE YOU WANT TO DIE!
THOOMP!
IS IT?
TH... THANK YOU... THANK YOU...
"THANK YOU?" HE WANTED TO DIE?
WHATEVER HE WANTED, I GAVE IT TO HIM.
SO WHAT NOW? WHAT ABOUT THE SUN-WALKER FORMULA?
MAYBE WE'LL KEEP ITS SIDE-EFFECTS QUIET AN' LET THE VAMPS PLAY WITH IT.
THAT'D BE A HOOT, eh?
VAMPIRES WANTED TO BE MORE LIKE US, TO WALK IN DAY-LIGHT.
THE FORMULA LETS 'EM DO IT. BUT THEY DON'T KNOW IT ALSO BRINGS BACK SOME OF THEIR HUMANITY.
WHO KNOWS? INSTEAD OF BEING THE PLAGUE, THE STINKIN' VAMPS MIGHT JUST HAVE INVENTED THEIR OWN CURE!
HENRY SAGE
LENORA SAGE
SARAH SAGE
THERE'S SILENCE EVERYWHERE IN THIS DARK BEFORE DAWN. AND, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A LONG TIME...
... BLADE SEES THE FAINTEST SHIMMER OF LIGHT.